BACKGROUND
- According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 85% of sexually active adults 18-44 years of age report engaging in oral sex.
- Despite recommendations from CDC to annual Chlamydia and Gonorrhea screenings for sexually active women younger than 25, experts believe far too many people are not tested and don’t know they are infected.
- Locally in Pitt County, there have been increasing alarming rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), particularly with Chlamydia, with 516 cases per 100,000 people.
- ECU Student Health Services (SHS) supports increased screening, especially for less known methods of transfer such as pharyngeal transmission. However, during the 2015/2016 academic year, only 32 pharyngeal STI tests were performed at SHS. Ideally, SHS should be able to screen all patients who report engagement in oral sex and educate patients about the risks of unprotected sex.

PROJECT AIM
- 75% of patients will be offered appropriate pharyngeal STI testing by providers and fast track registered nurses (RNs) if they report pharyngeal sex as a route of sexual intercourse by May 2021.
- 75% of patients who report pharyngeal sexual activity will be informed that best way to prevent any transmission for STIs and about preventative measures by May 2021.

PROJECT DESIGN/STRATEGY
- ECU SHS collaborated with Campus Wellness to begin the campaign, “Is it in Your Mouth?” in fall of 2016, which included dissemination of flyers and posters displaying information such as, “Unprotected sex includes oral sex,” and “Know your status. Use protection. Check your throat.”
- Retrospective chart review of patients’ EMRs at main campus and health sciences campus will be conducted to see if pharyngeal STI testing was recommended based on whether patient reports pharyngeal as route of sexual intercourse. EMRs also will be reviewed to determine if patient education was given regarding safe pharyngeal sex.
- Pharyngeal STI screening questionnaire will be administered to SHS providers to assess attitude towards STI screening.

METHODOLOGY
- Increase pharyngeal STI testing by provider and fast track RNs when patients report pharyngeal sexual activity.
- Increase patient education regarding data pharyngeal sex positions.
- Increase patient education regarding data pharyngeal sex positions.
- Appropriate templates will be developed and will contain questions regarding disclosure of testing and education for providers and fast track RNs.
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RESULTS
- PDSA Cycle 1 Results (2017-2018)
- PDSA Cycle 2 Results (2018-2019)

LESSONS LEARNED
- Provider template is implemented upon patient check-in without the presence of the provider. Provider is required to access the check-in template during the patient’s appointment and confirm the patient’s responses. Subsequently, the provider documents in the patient’s EMR, but there is no template which prompts the provider to offer appropriate safe sex education.

NEXT STEPS
- Third PDSA cycle is planned for April 2020.
- Currently discussing template changes for providers. Hopefully this will affect the upcoming 2019/2020 PDSA cycle.
- Potential barriers to testing should be further investigated to increase opportunities for ECU students to maintain their sexual health.

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